

Serial Number 08/933,822

2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Withdrawn) A yarn comprising

- a. at least one bundle of fiber, said bundle being ring spun or wrap spun with
- b. a wrapping fiber comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point range of about 105° to 190°C under ambient humidity conditions, said yarn comprising a total of 0.1 to 12 weight percent binder material.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 comprising 0.25 to 10 weight percent binder material.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 comprising 0.5 to 8 weight percent binder material.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is staple fibers.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fibers is a sliver.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fibers is continuous filaments.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the wrapping fiber comprises a heat-activated binder fiber.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 7 wherein said binder fiber is a copolyamide.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 8 wherein said binder fiber is a copolyamide of the nylon 6/nylon 6,6 type.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is nylon 6.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 1 wherein the bundle of fiber is staple fibers wrap spun with the wrapping fiber, and the wrapping fiber forms substantially all of the heat-activated binder material.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The yarn of claim 11 wherein the staple fibers are selected from the group consisting of nylon 6 and nylon 6-6, and wherein the heat-activated binder material is a copolyamide having a melting point range of 165° to 190°C under ambient humidity conditions.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) An article made from the yarn of claim 1.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) A tufted article made from the yarn of claim 1.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) A carpet including the yarn of claim 1 as a face yarn.

Serial No. 08/933,822

3

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A process for producing a yarn suitable for tufting, said process comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a bundle consisting essentially of a first base fiber prior to spinning, said first base fiber being selected from the group consisting of polyamides, nylon-6, nylon-6,6, polyesters, polyolefins, cotton, and wool;
- b. ring spinning or wrap spinning the bundle of fiber with a second fiber to form a yarn, said second fiber being twisted or wrapped uniformly around the bundle of fiber and comprising a heat-activated binder material having a melting point lower than that of said bundle of fiber, said yarn comprising 0.1 to 12 weight percent of the binder material;
- c. heating the yarn sufficiently to melt the binder material; followed by
- d. cooling the yarn to solidify the binder material.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

Claim 18. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of fiber is formed by spinning staple fiber.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) A wrap spun yarn made in accordance with the process of claim 18.

Claim 20. (Withdrawn) A yarn made in accordance with the process of claim 16.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the first base fiber is nylon-6 having a melt point range of 215 to 225°C.

Claim 23. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the bundle of a first base fiber is selected from the group consisting of a sliver and a bundle of continuous filaments.

Claim 24. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein said second fiber consists essentially of a blend of a second base fiber and a heat activated binder material having a melting point range of 105° to 190°C under ambient conditions.